



"We stand on the threshold of a titantic and decisive struggle. Our strength in tremendous force will soon be loosed both in Europe and in the Far Pacific . . . We must accept the casualties that are bound to come and forge steel from our grief . . . We must learn to accept setbacks which may seem more serious than anything we have thus far known, and still not falter on the road to eventual victory."—HENRY L STIMSON, Sec'y of War, in a New Year statement.



For those who will not be *Mentally Marooned*



Although average citizen does not yet fully sense the situation, it is a fact that Gov't is becoming the uncontested czar in wage cases.

Gov't steps in, specifies rates of pay. Employer complies because he has no alternative. Workers accept because "you can't strike against Gov't."

Railroad men (on both sides) are saying, privately, that Gov't seizure was ill-advised. Everyone "in" on proceedings knew that compromise was in the making. While net result is that rail workers probably will get more than they expected (part of true increase is hidden under guise of "paid vacations") union heads are disgruntled because summary Gov't seizure robbed them of chance to make "patriotic" last-min compromise; left organized labor open to charges of heedless opportunism (i.e. statements such as one issued this wk by a "high official" generally assumed to be Gen Marshall.)

That's what's really back of heated retorts by Wm Green and Philip Murray. They assert, in statements filed independently, that responsibility for prolonging labor disputes is chargeable to incompetent Gov't handling. And there's good deal to be said for their side.

Railroad case is just a beginning. As we said at time of the mine settlement, Little Steel formula is now out; Gov't broke it then, cannot hold line now. Other groups will demand raises while employment is high, hoping to hold gains thru transition period. Result is inflationary, no matter what fancy name Washington applies.

WORLD WEEK

Quote

prophecies . . .

RAILROADS: We forecast they will be ret'd to private management in matter of wks, with Army heartily thankful to be relieved of responsibility.

TOWNSEND PLAN: Backers haven't had much to say, but are making active plans for post-war period. Such movements make greatest progress, of course, when unemployment is rife.

ESQUIRE: Answering inquiries: No, Walker doesn't have special grudge against *Esquire*; has already banned score of offenders. Wants real test of Dept's power under venerable law; welcomes Supreme ct review. Probable net: *Esquire* will clean content a bit, regain 2nd class privilege.

We've been given, this wk, a disconcerting prevue of "peace-table politics"; a rather clear intimation that Russia may not subscribe to some of our idealistic concepts with respect to the "Little Nations."

First, there's Russian reaction to the Willkie article (*N Y Times*, 1-2-'44). Significantly, this article, which we excerpt on pg 5, was placating in intent, as the very title indicates. That the party organ, *Pravda*, reacted violently to Willkie's suggestion that we must "persuade" Russia to give suitable guarantees to the smaller nations on her borders, is a hint at troubles to come; an indication that Russia has her own program, which may not parallel our ideas and ideals.

There is further food for thought in the action and comment of the Polish gov't in exile, which this wk instructed its underground forces to avoid clashes with the oncoming Russian hordes. (Whether the underground will heed this counsel is, of course, quite another matter.) The underground, in Poland, has not forgotten or forgiven Russia's role at war's outset. The gov't, exiled in London, has apparently been "softened" to acceptance of a more realistic view. It has not, however, gone so far as to advocate active aid to the Red Army. Indeed, the declaration which the Polish gov't has handed to mbrs of the United Nations says quite pointedly:

"If a Polish-Soviet agreement, such as Polish gov't has declared it-

self willing to conclude, had preceded the crossing of the frontier of Poland by Soviet forces, such an agreement would have enabled the Polish underground army to co-ordinate its action against the Germans with the Soviet military authorities."

To put it not too delicately, Russians are rapidly winning the European war, and it is conceivable that in the post-war adjustment period, despite our chauvinistic faith in democratic supremacy, U S and Britain may not be able to dominate the peace sessions. The Atlantic Charter, in some of its more fatuous phases, may turn out to be the forgotten document.

ITALY: German prisoners captured this wk report that engineers are rushing completion of an Italian "Siegfried line", several mi deep and apparently as powerful as similar fortifications in w Europe. This new defense system, according to best information, is in greatest strength about Cassino (opposite 5th Army) and inland from Pescara, the Adriatic seaport which Canadian forces are nearing. This is further indication that enemy intends to keep our forces from Rome long as possible. If this new holding wall proves to have the strength that early reports indicate, it bears out what we have several times said in the past: Nazis have potential power to make Italy virtually a permanent battleground, if they elect to do so.

Quote

"He Who Never Quotes, is Never Quoted"—Charles Haddon Spurgeon

"Until . . . public men are willing to sacrifice political lives to save human lives later on, it will be useless to make, in '43 or '44 sweeping promises about maintaining world peace by physical force alone for even so brief a period as 15 yrs after the armistice."—DAVID LAWRENCE.

" "

"I am wondering if this is to be a gen'l policy for all presidential candidates." — CLAUDE A. WATSON, Prohibition party's '44 presidential nominee, upon being denied air-travel priority for campaigning.

" "

"The boss likes to look at a pretty girl as well as the next one, but he's so honest he just had to decide against *Esquire* within the strict meaning of the statute."—Post Office Dep't employee, defending Gen'l FRANK C. WALKER, who overruled 3-man board to deny 2nd class mail privilege to leading men's publication.

" "

"That's a nosy question to be asking, but I'll be glad to tell you." —K C ADAMS, press rep for JOHN L. LEWIS, when reporters asked what fuel boss is using to heat his new Alexandria, Va home. The answer: anthracite pea coal.

" "

"With our public debt the greatest enemy of a free people, I don't feel I can use this kind of money at the present time."—LESTER A. GRANDALL, Iowa farmer with 11 children, ret'g \$900.27 ck tendered for co-operation in AAA program during past 6 yrs.

"May we
Quote
you on that?"

"We cannot afford to help the enemy by cutting our own supply lines for him by strikes here at home."—WARREN H. ATHERTON, nat'l commander, American Legion, in telegram to Gen Geo C. Marshall, declaring Legion will support legislation suspending right to strike during war.

" "

"I am convinced that '44 will be yr of victory for United Nations and that the moment is not far distant when the Yugoslav people will achieve liberation from Hitler's tyranny."—JOS. STALIN, in a message to Premier Bozhidar Puric, of Yugoslav gov't in exile.

" "

"I've paid precious little att'n to clothes in last few yrs. I've a feeling I'm horribly frowzy these days, but I have no time to do anything about it."—Rep CLARE LUCE, upon being included in the '43 list of "Best-Dressed Women."

" "

"The man who meets the needs of the country at time convention is held will be the man to lead Republicans to victory."—Sen LODGE Mass, in a neat side-stepping statement.

"I'm in this war (air corps sgt) because I was responsible for starting it. I figure it this way: I knocked out Schmeling in '33 and made Hitler mad. The next yr I knocked out Carnera and made Mussolini mad. So they started a war and I got to help finish it."—MAXIE BAER, former heavyweight boxing cham.

"The U S has at least momentarily failed in leadership—politically, economically and morally. Mr Stalin . . . has stolen the show.

"Today in Africa, in Asia, in Europe, in S America, even right here in the U S, the average man is not asking what Mr Roosevelt is going to do next. He is not asking what Mr Churchill is going to do next. He is asking what Mr Stalin is going to do next."—WENDELL WILLKIE, N Y Times, 1-2-'44.

"Hitler will be killed by his own high command before the United Nations can bring him to justice—I should say about Easter or some time in summer." — Mayor LA GUARDIA, of N Y C.

" "

"I'm sick of grunting for a living." JOHNNY WEISSMULLER, Hollywood's Tarzan, striking for more extensive vocabulary in future pictures.

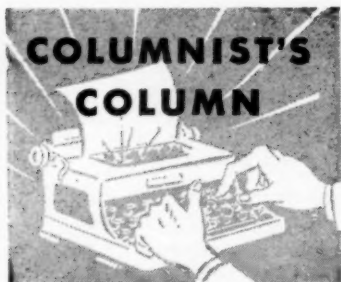
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"What did you get for Christmas that wasn't cardboard?"—Query of youngster in CHON DAY, cartoon, *New Yorker*.

Quote

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Revolution in Germany

MAX WERNER

Yr ago, Mr Werner, a European, predicted failure of Nazi offensive; success for Russia; Italy's fall; material and strategic success for Allies. He saw Germans revolt after last war; predicts a new revolt.—Ed.

Nineteen forty-four will see beginning of German vengeance against Nazism. Hitler will try to retain his hold, but as soon as armies are unwilling to continue war, Himmler's civil-war militia will grow powerless.

Whole units of *Wehrmacht* will rebel. This will signal downfall of the regime. Inside Germany, foreign workers and war prisoners will revolt. First the top layer of the Nazi hierarchy will be destroyed; then the state mach'y will go.

The *Wehrmacht* will be smashed on Russia's S front. The decision will come there. The German N front, below Leningrad, will collapse. The German defeat in the S will open Red Army road into the Balkans and Danube valley. Defeat in the N will lead into East Prussia. In s-e Europe, Hitler's last satellites will desert. Bitter guerrilla warfare will be waged.

The invasion in the west will succeed. Hitler will be short of troops on both fronts. From east, west, south, German army will be under fierce pressure. This war, which began on all fronts as a German war of movement will end as a Soviet-Anglo-American war of movement against Germany. Between weakening of German resistance and final defeat, only a brief time will elapse—a few mo's or wks.

The fate of the Third Reich is perfectly clear. 1944 will see Germany's military and political collapse. This is not a prediction. It is simply giving information about the immediate future.—Abridged from *Look*, 1-12-'44.

ALIBI

Argentine husbands now have an excuse for arriving home late for dinner. Gov't decree orders ry co's to give passengers certificates noting number of min behind schedule.—*Pan-American*.

AMERICA—Future

Has the freezing of immigration altered forever the nature and composition of American people? Is it not possible that in 20 or 50 yrs every person in America will have been born and reared in America; that we shall produce a typical American, just as today there are typical Frenchmen, typical Germans, typical Chinese, etc?—Edw E GRUSD (ed, *Nat'l Jewish Monthly*) "Some Questions For Americans", *Common Ground* Winter, '44.

CHRIST—a Teacher

Jesus Christ is the outstanding personality of all time. . . No other teacher—Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, Mohammedan—is still a teacher whose teaching is such a guidepost for the world we live in. Other teachers may have something basic for an Oriental, an Arab, or an Occidental; but every act and word of Jesus has value for all of us. He became the Light of the World. Why shouldn't I, a Jew, be proud of that?—SHOLEM ASCH (author, *The Nazarene, The Apostle*) "I Had to Write These Things", *Christian Herald*, 1-'44.

CHURCH—Contributions

A man entered a drug store one bright Sunday morning and asked for change for a dime.

"Here you are," said the druggist, pleasantly, "two nickels—and I hope you enjoy the sermon."—BENNETT CERF, *Sat Rev of Lit*.

DRINK—Drinking

When a Frenchman has drunk too much; he wants to dance; a German, to sing; a Spaniard, to gamble; an Italian, to brag; an Irishman, to fight; an American, to make a speech.—*Kalends*, hm Waverly Press

HASTE

Why hurry? The hare dies in 7 yrs; the tortoise lives to be 200.—*Hoard's Dairyman*.

IDEAS—Power of

The bombs of war may explode and their reverberations may be heard around the world. But their effects are insignificant and temporary compared with the changes that will be wrought by an idea which some quiet scientist, hidden away in a study or laboratory, is patiently developing.—*The Vagabond*.

INCONSISTENCY

When daily papers announced the Pres had signed bill granting freedom to Philippines, a colored man in Harlem held up his paper and laughed loudly.

"We ain't even got the Philippines," he said, "and here we are grantin' 'em freedom! White folks do the funniest things!"—LANGSTON HUGHES (Negro Poet) "White Folks do the Funniest Things!" *Common Ground*, Winter, '44.

"Now is the time . . ."

On every hand we hear talk of impending events—A-Day (*Armistice*) V-Day (*Victory*), X-Day (*Unknown*), D-Day (*Demobilization*). May we timidly suggest that some thought and effort be directed toward the problems of *Today*?—HARVEY CAMPBELL, *Detroit*.

INDUSTRY—Absenteeism

United Rubber Workers of America have coined a new word—"presenteeism"—and will start an educational program on merits of being on the job. Patriotic workers, they say, are tired of hearing the evils of—ah—the other thing.—*Montreal Star*.

LANGUAGE—Chinese

The English language is as impossible for the Chinese as their subtle use of tones is to us. The name Roosevelt comes off the Chinese tongue as Lo-so-fu; Willkie is We-er-jee; Churchill, Cho-tchi; Stalin, Su-tai-leen. . . The only well-known foreign name that presents no difficulties is Mussolini; it comes out the same in Chinese.—Sgt MARION HARGROVE (author *See Here, Private Hargrove*) *Yank*, Army newspaper.

Spot of Tea

Cpl THOS R ST GEORGE is the youngest author (age: 23) ever to be honored by Book-of-The-Month Club. His humorous acct of Yanks in Australia, C/O Postmaster (Crowell, \$2.) was a Fall selection, guaranteeing the author-artist a minimum \$20,000. When the publishers wrote Mr St George, familiarly known to the 79 inhabitants of Simpson, Minn. as "Ozzie", suggesting that he might know some "influential person" who would be interested in doing a Foreword, he replied characteristically: "The only gen'l I know has me pegged as a boy who doesn't always wear the uniform properly. I should honor him!" But let's get on with Ozzie's observations:

Australian eating habits were pretty confusing any way we looked at it. The first meal of the morning was breakfast. Okay. But the next meal might be dished out about 10 a m (which made it "morning tea") or it might be delayed until approx noon, which made it "lunch" or "dinner", depending on whether hot or cold and whether there'd been morning tea. The next meal was THE "tea", variously referred to as "tea", "a spot of tea" and "afternoon tea". Under special conditions it might even be "supper" or "dinner", depending on whether hot or cold, how many meals had already been served, what the last one had been called, and, in some families, who was there to eat it. Shortly before retiring there was still another meal which the natives usually claimed was supper, and we all insisted was "just something to eat before going to bed." We often told them: "All you do all day long is set the table, wash dishes and wonder what you're going to call it the next time you eat." They told us: "But three meals a day aren't enough. That ruins your stomach."

The only thing we were ever sure of was that did we show up at the right gate about 3 p m, and look sufficiently wistful, we could probably get something to eat. Our first tea was with a Minister of the Gospel, some 24 hrs after landing. He had invited us in to look at his car—no bigger than a baby-buggy, tho evidently powered by something (possibly a squirrel on a treadmill).

We proceeded to tell our Rev host

of our adventures in convoy on the high seas, how we suffered aboard ship, how we had literally come thru it all by the skin of our teeth, being a bare 1000 mi away from the Coral Sea Battle shortly after it was all over. We spread it around quite some that we had indeed had experiences, and undoubtedly impressed the Rev with our willingness to share them.

When we had talked ourselves into a state of exhaustion, our host casually mentioned that he had been in Rabaul when the Japs landed there. Escaping inland with three other missionaries, he'd crossed the island on foot, fought his way south in an open boat, the target of half the Japanese Air Force, eventually reached Milne bay, and been evacuated from there to Australia, where he was happily tending another flock and slowly regaining the 35 lbs he'd lost. The Rev told this much as we'd have explained our whereabouts of the night before had we come in exceptionally late and aroused family suspicions—apologetically, fluffing over the high spots. He said his wife had been much luckier; she'd left Rabaul on the last boat and suffered nothing worse than two bombings en route.

We thought of what we'd suffered. A shortage of Coca Cola and no female companionship. On the way home we agreed that what we'd often heard was true—Americans talk too much. Not that we shut up; we merely agreed that it was true—and went right on talking.

PERSISTENCE

Two mice fell into a deep bowl of cream. One couldn't see the use of swimming. He gave up—and drowned. The other was discouraged, too, but didn't know how to

quit. He just kept on swimming. Finally, when things looked the blackest, a miracle happened. The churned cream hardened, turned to butter—and the mouse was able to jump out alive.—*Liberty*.



Don't Stir Mistrust of Russia—
WENDELL WILLKIE, N Y Times, 1-2-'44.

Some people hint that Mr Roosevelt has gone too far in recent conferences with world leaders. In my judgment he hasn't gone far enough. The conferences did not establish a concrete political base upon which all the United Nations can agree and rely . . .

It is of utmost importance that we view the Russian situation realistically. I do not use "realism" as a synonym for "cynicism." What we must apply is simple American common sense. Americans are prone to become fanatical on the Russian situation—either for Russia or against her.

Of course the most pressing question is what Russia intends to do about political integrity of small states around her borders . . . Almost all of us who have advocated common sense rather than emotion, feel that the future status of Europe's small states constitutes one of the most delicate problems confronting our statesmanship.

With every mi Red Army advances toward Polish frontiers, the United Nations are driven nearer a crisis. With every passing day issues in Greece, Yugoslavia, other Balkan states, press upon us. Are we to repeat political errors in N Africa, Sicily, Italy?

Some politicians talk freely of forcing Stalin to recognize the complete integrity of Poland and the Baltic states. How? Surely by their past views they will not want to enforce a policy by sending American soldiers into Europe. They opposed sending armies to crush Hitler!

There is only one way to gain acceptance for our ideas in Russian foreign policy, and that is to regard Russia as an equal with whom we desire to work and live.

News of the New

AVIATION: Henceforth, most military aircraft will go into action in natural metal color. Elimination of camouflage paint will cut weight of fighter craft 15-20 lbs; bombers as much as 80 lbs. This means slight increase in speed—and fractions are important!

U S 8th Air Force has developed new daylight bombing technique, making possible accurate bombing thru solid cloud blankets. This is answer to query, "How can Americans make accurate target raids in bad weather?" Details are secret.

Our airmen in Europe are soon to have new metal headgear as extra protection against flak. The "flak suits", resembling baseball catcher's equipment, but covering back, chest and legs, have proved satisfactory, but left face and neck exposed. The new "tin derby" is a light but roomy affair, designed to fit over earphones, microphones, oxygen mask, goggles and head covering.

Will Britain be first, after war, to offer regularly scheduled passenger airplane service between N Y and London? Already, plans for 50-passenger super airliner capable of crossing Atlantic in 10 hrs, have been submitted to British Ministry of Aircraft Production. It's 8-engine ship with cruising speed 350 mi pr hr; range of 3500 mi.

SURGERY: Dr Wallace Marshall, specialist in Physiological Chemistry, explained to Am Federation of Clinical Research last wk new technique for shrinking scars, making them less prominent. Paste made from animal livers is injected under the skin. This shuts down supply of blood carried by tiny vessels to scar; reduces pressure in scar tissues; allows fluid in scar to be assimilated by the body.

New hope for infantile paralysis victims suffering bulbar type of disease, which affects breathing, is repled by Dr T C Galloway in *Jnl American Med Ass'n*. Treatment consists of operation, called tracheotomy: cutting opening thru throat into windpipe. Operation credited with saving lives of 2 patients in initial tests.

PEP TALK

The final match of an evening of inexpensive boxing held somewhere in the Bronx last week proved to be unequal. In fact, one of the participants was taking an obvious and

There's something in
what you say . . .

"After the 1st 400 inches of rain in any yr, it does not make much difference whether more falls or not."—*Natural History*, in a discussion of weather in Asiatic war zone.

unmerciful beating. In the fine old tradition, his senior second did the best he could to keep his morale up. As the dying gladiator came wobbling back to his corner after the sixth round this fellow hopped into the ring and bent over to give him the old pep talk: "You got him goin', Joey. Don't worry. Just keep your head and let him wear hisself out. Keep throwing that left at him and . . . say, can you hear me?"—*New Yorker*.

RATIONING

Rev Leland L Marion's experience would seem to indicate that it's not best to pray for gasoline ration tickets. Mr Marion, who hails from Pontiac, Mich, did so, and says he found the tickets on his desk. The OPA discovered the fact and promptly ordered surrender of the stamps.—*Protestant Voice*.

There are more booklovers among us than ever before—since OPA got to issuing them.—*Pathfinder*.

SABOTAGE

There have been no Black Tom disasters; no successful enemy-directed acts of sabotage at all, so far in World War II.—*FRED'K L COLLINS, The F B I in Peace and War* (Putnam).

SALESMANSHIP

"I had a marvelous day," said the First Salesman. "Made lots of friends for the Company."

"Me, too, Bill," said the Second Salesman understandingly. "I didn't sell anything either."—*Advertiser's Digest*.

Confidentially thru a Megaphone

Despite prosperity of the types most inclined to "whoop 'er up", New Yr celebrations, the country over, were surprisingly temperate. Whisky shortage of course had something to do with it. A good many people avoided public places thru fear of flu epidemic. In some cities bells and whistles were banned to prevent confusion with air raid alarms. But gen'l consensus is that people just didn't feel like celebrating—almost everyone had relatives on the battle-front. And that made a big difference.

No one, apparently, has completely doped out the great Christmas Tree Mystery. Some dealers rep'ted slow sales; others said they moved usual allotment but "there were just too many trees". Thousands of trees were cut locally by speculators figuring to clean up on shortage of imports. All midwest mkts were glutted. Cleveland burned 20 carloads in giant bonfire.

Army Postal Service, investigating alleged delays in V-mail, has turned up neat GI trick: Servicemen, a bit negligent in correspondence, have been pre-dating letters—some by as much as 3 mo's—and of course Postal Service got blame for slow delivery!

Army is getting quite peeved at press agents who publicize impending overseas trips of movie stars. War Dept has gone so far as to cancel trips of some who were scheduled to entertain troops abroad, because there had been too much publicity. Transport of celebrities is headache at best; enemy is on alert for these publicity-rich hauls. P A's may cackle much as they like about visits to U S training camps, however.

Recent epidemic of flu and colds has depleted reserve stocks of cough drops. OPA this wk ok'd extra sugar allotments to replenish stocks.

SIMPLICITY

When the king was a young man, he was asked to become a royal patron of industry. The man who was sent to him told me the story. The prince, as he then was, walked to the window in Buckingham Palace and then turned suddenly.

"I'll do it," he said, "but I don't want any damned red carpet."

His life has been a war against red carpet ever since.—HECTOR BOLITHO, "King Geo VI at War," *Britain*, 12-43.



The death rate among persons over 50 has increased significantly in the U S during the last yr.—From a report of the U S Bureau of Census.

Modern medicine has made it possible for more persons to pass the threshold of 50 yrs than the world has ever seen. As a result, the increased economic burden of caring for the aged and infirm may prove too heavy for our existing social structure.—Dr ROY W SCOTT, at commencement exercises, U of Cinc College of Medicine.

TAXES

The Eskimos have politely informed the Canadian gov't that they do not wish to "buy any taxes."

We laugh. But maybe the Eskimos are right. We "buy" taxes when we neglect to consider the expenses of gov't for which taxes are levied.—*Nation's Business*.

TURN-ABOUT

Wm Terry, star of *Stage Door Canteen*, used to be a house-painter. Hearing his neighbor's kitchen needed painting, but no painters available Terry did the work without charge.

The neighbor is a professional income-tax accountant. When Terry, between brush-strokes complained of excessive taxes, the specialist asked to see his returns. Going

American Scene

How Uncle Sam Will
Check Your Income Tax
DONALD KOVACIC

Treasury Dep't is setting up a central processing unit in N Y city for biggest checking job ever undertaken under one roof. With staff of 2500 the unit will "process" every income tax ret'n filed in U S next Mar 15. That will mean sorting approx 200 million pcs of paper preliminary to checking anticipated 50 million ret'ns.

Here's example of why unit has been created, and what it will do:

Taxpayer Joe Doakes lives in Topeka, Kan, works primarily for a N Y firm, but picks up occasional pc of change from a K C co; also receives dividend cks from corp'ns with offices in Wilmington, Del, Ft Worth, Tex.

By Jan 31, Doakes' two employers must furnish him with statement showing amt paid him during yr, together with amt deducted for victory and income taxes. The employers must file duplicate statements with their respective intl revenue collectors.

The corp'ns must also provide gov't with statement of amt of dividends paid Doakes. Heretofore such reports have gone to corp'ns' local collectors. Now, they will send reports directly to the new processing unit.

By Mar 15, Doakes must file his

income ret'n with his local collector. Simply for a routine ck of that ret'n, the local collector would need reports from collectors at N Y, K C, Wilmington and Dallas. In yrs when only a few million persons were req'd to file, collectors exchanged such reports. But now such a system would result in too much confusion and loss of time.

Hence, with no effort at on-spot checking, each collector bundles all documents filed with him; ships them to N Y. There, the work will be largely checking figures against figures. N Y office simply will sort all papers with Joe Doakes' name on them, clip them together, check that clip for possible errors in his ret'n and send file back to Doakes' own collector.

If no error is found, local collector either may accept file as final, or decide to audit it and learn whether Doakes tried to slip one over.

In case Doakes is entitled to ref'd—and many taxpayers will be, under current collection system—time saved by central processing unit will save Uncle Sam money. Law says Treasury must pay same interest rate on money it owes a taxpayer as it demands from him if his pay't is late. Interest at 6% starts Mar 15.

The best guess is that it will take about 2 mo's to start the refunds on their way.—AP dispatch.

over them with a fine-tooth comb, he made corrections that saved Terry a neat \$200.—JIMMIE FIDLER, Hollywood col.

VIEWPOINT

An insurance salesman was trying his level best to sell an accident policy to an unresponsive farmer who, perched 20 ft above him on a rickety scaffold, continued painting his barn.

Suddenly, the scaffold gave way, the prospect tumbled at the salesman's ft.

Quick to seize the opportunity, the insurance man whisked out his application form and pencil. "Now,

"LOST—One lead pencil. By blonde; blue eyes; height 5 ft; weight 112; age 20; very good dancer. Reward if ret'd. Dial 45893."—Want ad, reported in *Army newspaper, Stars & Stripes*.

you see, it's just as I was telling you. Accidents are likely to happen any time, any place. . ."

"You mean it's just like I was telling you," broke in the resolute ruralist. "I don't need any insurance. I didn't get hurt, did I?"—*Printers' Ink*.

GEMS FROM Yesteryear

A Father Prays
GABRIEL HEATTER

You know Mr Heatter, perhaps, as a Voice, emerging from your radio to discuss topics of our times. But once, some yrs ago, as a house-organ editor, he wrote this brief bit which we believe deserves reprinting at the outset of a New Year.

Build me a son, O Lord, who will be strong enough to know he is weak and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid. One who will be proud and unbending in defeat, but humble and gentle in victory.

A son whose wishbone will not be where his backbone should be; a son who will know that to know himself is the foundation of all true knowledge.

Rear him, I pray, not in the path of ease and comfort, but under the stress and spur of difficulties and challenges. Here let him learn to stand up in the storm; let him learn compassion for those who fall.

Build me a son whose heart will be clean, whose goal will be high. A son who will master himself, before he seeks to master other men. One who will learn how to laugh, but never forget how to weep. One who will reach far into the future but never forget the past.

And after all these are his, add, I pray, enough of a sense of humor so that he may always be serious, yet never take himself too seriously; a touch of humility, so that he may always remember the simplicity of true greatness; the open mind of true wisdom; the meekness of true strength.

Then I, his father, will dare, in the sacred recesses of my own heart to whisper:

"I have not lived in vain."

"Nothing is impossible," declared the Emphatic One, in a tone that brooked no interference.

"Oh, I don't know," persisted the Skeptic. "Did you ever try to take a pr of skils thru a revolving door?"—*The Watchword.*

Good Stories YOU CAN USE...

A friend of our who's been having more than her share of maid trouble didn't know quite how to break the news to her latest that the house wasn't as clean as it ought to be. Very gently, and without reproach, she said:

"You know, Annie, I saw two roaches in the kitchenette today." Annie looked up dreamily.

"That's a fact! Cockroaches are real friendly little animals. And very clean. In fact," she lowered her voice confidentially, "roaches are a lot cleaner than I am."—*PM.*

I LAUGHED AT THIS ONE

GREGORY RATOFF

An enthusiastic writer in Hollywood burst into a producer's office:

"I've got a great idea for a picture," he claimed. "It's like this—the hero and heroine are having dinner when a shadow is seen in the room. Then—"

"Who's the shadow?" queried the producer gruffly.

"Wait a minute," ans'd the scenarist, "that's the story, and you'll spoil it. Well, the hero and the heroine go into another room; the shadow looms again, giving a creepy, hair-raising feeling. Then—"

This time the producer interrupted in a deep and meaningful tone. "Who's the shadow?" he growled. "I'm paying the guy, and I want to know."

An air corps officer assigned to a desk job objected to fliers getting extra pay for flying time. "Why should you get more?" he barked at a Texas pilot. "We're all in this war together."

"I know," drawled the Texan, "but who ever heard of two desks crashing head-on?"—*WALTER WINCHELL.*

He was dug out of his wrecked car and hurried to a doctor's office.

"I can't do much for you" confessed the doctor. "You see, I'm a veterinary surgeon."

"That's all right, doc" replied the patient weakly. "I guess they brought me to the right place. I was an ass to think I could do fifty on those tires."—*Financial Post.*

" "

The dude and the hill-billy were both rear rank privates occupying adjoining bunks in barracks. One day the dude inspected his toilet kit, glanced at his neighbor and demanded sharply, "Did you take my tooth paste?"

"No, I didn't take no tooth paste," came the answer. "I don't need no tooth paste. My teeth ain't loose."—*Kablegram, h m Kable Bros Co.*

WISECRACKS of the Week

The best 10 yrs of a woman's life are between the ages of 29 and 30.—*Wesleyan Christian Advocate.*

" "

How simple were the problems of yesteryear when our greatest worry was the monthly installment on the car.—*Co-Operation.*

" "

With the present raids on Berlin, and the promise of more to come, Goering may soon repeat with some truth his earlier statement on air raids: "Berlin will never be bombed again."—*Montrealer.*

" "

A girl with curves must keep a level head.—*N Y World-Telegram.*

No speech is too long, if it seems too short. No speech is short enough if it seems too long.—*J. C. NUGENT, "Hints to Toastmasters", Variety 12-24-43.*

